



Council Meeting Summary

Monday, June 20, 2005

The first Michigan Food Policy Council (MFPC) meeting convened Monday, June 20, 2005 from 10am-2:30pm at Constitution Hall in Lansing. Mr. Byrum chaired the meeting in the place of Michigan Department of Agriculture Director, Dan Wyant, due to Mr. Wyant's resignation announcement on Thursday, June 17, 2005.

Council Members in attendance:

Jim Byrum, Michigan Agri-Business Association
Jean Chabut, Michigan Department of Community Health
Janet Cushman, Michigan Department of Human Services
Giancarlo Guzman, Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)
Michael Hamm, Michigan State University
Jim Herbert, Neogen Corporation
Mattie Jordan-Woods, Northside Association of Community Development
Cheryl Kobernik, North Star Organics
Jane Marshall, Food Bank Council of Michigan
Justin Rashid, American Spoon Foods, Inc.
Dennis Sykes, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth
Dennis West, Northern Initiatives
Christine White, Michigan Department of Agriculture
Todd Wickstrom, Heritage Foods USA
Wayne Wood, Michigan Farm Bureau

Mr. Byrum called the meeting to order at 10am and welcomed the Council Members to the Michigan Food Policy Council. Erik Wilford from Governor Granholm's Office, Appointments Division, conducted the Council Member oath ceremony. Council Members introduced themselves and described their work.

MFPC staff member, Kristin Brooks, discussed meeting protocol. Council Members must be present in person to participate and vote, a majority of Council Members constitutes a quorum, and motions and recommendations will be adopted by majority vote. Council Members discussed modifying the protocol document to include the following changes:

- ?? The ability for Council Members to dissent on recommendations in the final report to the Governor.
- ?? The recognition that the actions of Council Members do not necessarily represent the positions of their organizations.

Mr. Wood moved to adopt the protocol document given the above changes and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Byrum began the elections for the Vice-Chair and Secretary positions. Mr. Wood nominated Mr. Byrum to the position of Vice-Chair and the nomination was unanimously

adopted. Ms. Kobernik nominated Jane Marshall to the position of Secretary and the nomination was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Hamm gave an overview of the reasons for and concept of a food policy council in Michigan. He spoke extensively about food issues and opportunities in Michigan for the Michigan Food Policy Council to explore. Council members discussed current food and agriculture challenges in Michigan.

Mr. Byrum then asked each Council Member to describe their particular interests related to MFPC. The Council Members were interested a range of topics including:

- ?? Nutrition in schools,
- ?? Production agriculture,
- ?? Niche markets,
- ?? Access to healthy foods in urban areas,
- ?? Access for low-income individuals,
- ?? Food and health,
- ?? Agriculture viability and infrastructure,
- ?? Food education,
- ?? Intra-agency awareness and coordination around food programs within State government
- ?? Promotion of Michigan foods and food-related tourism,
- ?? And creation of food-related businesses and jobs.

After lunch, Ms. Brooks briefly presented the goals laid out in Executive Order 2005-13, Section III as the main charge for the Council Members. Also discussed were the objectives included in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant. Ms. Brooks explained the development of Task Forces, which include Council Members and Non-Council Members, to work on the goals and objectives in greater detail. The work of Task Forces will be brought to the Council for consideration. After much discussion, led by MFPC staff member Liesl Clark, Council Members decided to consolidate the proposed Task Forces from five to four. The "Creating Urban and Rural Partnerships" Task Force was eliminated though issues related to that topic will be picked up by the other task forces. The following Task Forces remaining are:

- ?? "Expanding Food-Related Businesses and Jobs"
- ?? "Improving Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods"
- ?? "Promoting Purchase of Michigan Foods"
- ?? "Enhancing Agricultural Viability"

Council Members decided that the Executive Order goals would direct the Task Forces and to further deliberate on the Kellogg Foundation objectives and others in Task Force meetings. Additionally, Task Forces will be responsible for developing a timeline for meeting measurable objectives. Council Members also determined which Task Forces they would like to work on.

After the meeting was adjourned Council Members met in Task Forces to discuss next steps. The second Michigan Food Policy Council Meeting will be held Monday, August 22, 2005 at Constitution Hall, Lansing, time TBD.